



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health and Family Services**

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Jim Doyle, Governor  
Helene Nelson, Secretary

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For Immediate Release

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**Statement by Secretary Helene Nelson  
Regarding the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare Report by Legislative Audit Bureau**

“Keeping children safe is our top priority. One of the Department’s most important and challenging responsibilities is protecting children in Milwaukee who are at serious risk of abuse or neglect. We are committed to improving the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare’s performance in helping vulnerable children and families.

“The audit recognizes the important progress that the Department has made in improving the lives of children in Milwaukee County, such as significantly reducing the number of children in out-of-home care. The report also highlights challenges that are still facing us, such as reducing turnover of child welfare workers and ensuring timely services to families. Steps to address these and other underlying issues are in place, and although it takes time to see measurable results, there is already evidence of improvement.

“The audit raises some new issues that we will address immediately, while other concerns outlined in the audit are not new and strategies are being implemented to address them. We appreciate the thoroughness of the auditors. Their work will help us and our private agency contract partners to move forward in strengthening the system and helping more children to have the life and opportunities they deserve.”

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